

Fruit Labor - 2018

Fruit Farm Workers By Category 2018

Category	Permanent	Seasonal
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AGRICULTURAL		
Full-time	1,840	7,065
Part-time	(¹)	5,445
H2-A		
Full-time	290	2,240
CONTRACT		
Full-time	0	2,015
Part-time	(¹)	565
TOTAL	2,370	17,330

¹ Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations or due to insufficient data.

Fruit Farm Worker Shortage By Primary Crop 2018 ¹

Primary Crop	Permanent	Seasonal
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Apple & other ²	15	600
Blueberry	5	730
Cherry ³	25	190
TOTAL	45	1,520

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Apples, peaches, pears, plums, and nectarines.

³ Tart and sweet cherries.

Fruit Farm Workers By Primary Crop Acreage 2018 ¹

Primary crop	Permanent	Seasonal	Migrant ²
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Apple & Other ³	1,110	7,030	4,415
Blueberry	610	7,465	5,425
Cherry ⁴	650	2,835	1,625
TOTAL	2,370	17,330	11,465

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Included in seasonal worker total.

³ Apples, peaches, pears, plums, and nectarines.

⁴ Sweet and tart cherries.

Migrant Workers-Fruit Farms 2018

	<i>Number</i>
Farms hiring	406
Migrant workers	11,465

Recruiting Sources 2018 ¹

Sources	Percent
Local labor force/want ads	26
Michigan Works! Ag employment	14
H-2A temporary Ag worker, Direct hire	8
H-2A temporary Ag worker, Contractor	13
Drive up labor	33
Word of mouth	30
Other	11

¹ For fruit farms with hired labor.

Farms With Paid Workers By Primary Crop 2018 ¹

Number of Workers	Apple ²	Blueberry	Cherry ³	Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
None	235	200	50	485
1 - 9	165	135	150	450
10 or more	225	100	90	415
TOTAL	625	435	290	1,350

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Apples, peaches, pears, plums, and nectarines.

³ Tart and sweet cherries.

Unharvested Acres From Worker Shortage By Primary Crop 2018 ¹

Primary crop	Acres
Apple & other ²	170
Blueberry	485
Cherry ³	160
TOTAL	815

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Apples, peaches, pears, plums, and nectarines.

³ Tart and sweet cherries.

Farms Needing Additional Workers By Month 2018

Month	Fruit
	<i>Number</i>
January	5
February	5
March	11
April	21
May	35
June	65
July	110
August	85
September	104
October	90
November	24
December	3

Definitions of Key Terms:

Full-time Worker: Employees who perform 30 hours or more per week.

Part-time Worker: Employees who perform 29 hours or less per week

Permanent Worker: Employees who worked 121 days or more in calendar year 2018.

Seasonal Worker: Employees who worked 120 days or less in calendar year 2018.

Migrant Worker: Employees who travel to work and are unable to return to permanent residence the same day.

Contract Worker: Workers whose services are negotiated through a third party and for whom no W-2 (IRS Wage and Tax Statement) is provided by the farm operator. Contract workers are paid by a crew leader, contractor, buyer, processor, cooperative, or other person who has an oral or written agreement with a farmer.

Agricultural Worker: Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms. Workers are classified as agricultural or non-agricultural based on the majority of time spent.

H2-A Worker: Nonimmigrant foreign workers brought to the U.S. to perform temporary or seasonal labor via the H-2A temporary agricultural program.

Shortage: The additional workers that would have been hired if available.